National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) and Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) have jointly submitted a bid to the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) in response to DESU's invitation seeking proposals for implementation of their 650 MW Gas Based Power Project at Bawana. ABB are, in addition, among the parties who responded to an invitation to bid for the formation of a joint venture company alongwith the NTPC and the Steel Authority of India Limited for setting up of a 500 MW power plant in Bhilai. Both the proposals are as yet only being evaluated.

World Bank conditions for Power Sector

1709. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the Business Section of the Pioneer of the 27th November, 1992 wherein it has been stated that his Department had accepted all conditions imposed by the World Bank; and

(b) whether he has committed that the tariff for agriculture sector would be minimum 50 paise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to improving the financial condition of State Electricity Boards, it was resolved by the State Power Ministers Conference in their meeting held on 6-9-1991 that State Electricity Boards should function on sound commercial principles by advocating a minimum agricultural tariff. The subsequent Conference of State Power Ministers held on 4-4-1992 passed a resolution adopting the minimum agricultural tariff as 50 paise per unit. This decision was also included in the Action Plan adopted by the Conference of State Power Ministers held on the 8th and 9th January, 1993. As such it was a consensus decision emerging out of the State Power Ministers Conference and not a commitment made by the Government to the World Bank.

Electricity connection to Jhuggi-Dwellers

1710. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the jhuggi-dwellers in Delhi are having direct supply of electricity from the poles;

(b) whether Government have made any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, what is the number of such persons in Delhi who are having illegal connections; and

(d) what is Government's policy with regard to issuing electricity connections in unauthorised jhuggis erected on public land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (d) On the basis of a survey conducted by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in January, 1990, there are about 929 Jhuggi Jhopri Clusters in Delhi with a population of about 13 lakhs. According to DESU, theft of electricity by direct tapping is a common problem in most of the J. J. Clusters. However, no firm figures about the number of persons having illegal connections in Delhi are available. Delhi Administration has already taken a decision to provide domestic light connection upto maximum of 250 Watts in a Jhuggi. According to the scheme formulated by DESU and the slum wing of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), DESU would provide the supply upto High Tension Level and the LT work would be executed by the MCD.

Non-payment of Dues to Eectricity Boards by State Governments

1711. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many State Governments are not paying the dues which they owe to the State Electricity Boards on account of Rural Electrification subsidy thereby creating financial problems for the Boards;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure the timely payment of Rural Electrification Subsidy to the State Electricity Boards by the State Government ?